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MDOT SHA to Hold Six Public Workshops on Alternatives for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study

March 6, 2019 Multiple studies over the last decade have shown that the National Capital Region is one of the most congested in the nation, and Marylanders face the second highest commuting times in the country. Today, on average, travelers have to navigate seven hours of traffic congestion daily on I-270. The duration is even worse on I-495 with travelers having to navigate 10 hours of congestion daily.

To address this congestion, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) are completing the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study. This study is looking to provide a solution that addresses congestion, improves trip reliability, and enhances existing and planned mobility and connectivity for other modes of travel including transit. The study begins on I-495 south of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia, and includes addressing the serious regional bottleneck at the American Legion Bridge, and extends to west of MD 5 and includes I-270 from I-495 to I-370.

Since presenting the Preliminary Range of Alternatives in July 2018, MDOT SHA completed an initial screening, which reduced the preliminary alternatives to seven recommended Screened Alternatives. Public workshops are being held to present the traffic, environmental, and financial analyses for the recommended Screened Alternatives along with the recommendations for the alternatives to be retained for detailed study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Six public workshops will take place in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in April, including two Saturday meetings to accommodate busy schedules. A complete list of dates and times can be found on the project's website at <https://495-270-p3.com/your-participation/upcoming-events/>. A virtual workshop will also be available on the program website starting April 11, 2019.

At the workshops, the MDOT SHA team will guide attendees through materials that will include informational displays and handouts, with interactive and hard copy mapping. Staff will be available to answer questions. Comments will be accepted at the public workshops through hard copy and online comment forms and by email and mail. Feedback is welcome throughout the study.

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